

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. No broadcasting company is forcing local stations to air Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 911, and if one were, I would expect a public outcry of foul. Sinclair deserves more than a hand slap for this one. It's an egregious flouting of the rules of fairness, and an unjust use of public airwaves for a personal political agenda.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.